

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 011035Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4595

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CONFIDENTIAL DHAHRAN 0138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: SAG/ARAMCO NEGOTIATIONS RE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

1. ON JANUARY 28 CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSSED WITH ARAMCO CHAIRMAN FRANK JUNGERS AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNEMENTAL AFFAIRS MAJED ELASS THE JANUARY 27 STATEMENT BY SAG MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM UNDER SECRETARY 'ABD AL-AZI" AT-TURKI CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT OWNERSHIP OF ARAMCO. ACCORDING TO AN FBIS REPORT, RIYADH'S DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC BROADCAST ON JANUARY 27 A STATEMENT BY TURKI THAT "THE SAUDI GOVERNEMENT WILL SOON SNCLARE ITS FULL OWNERSHIP OF ARAMCO, AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ENTERED THE FINAL STAGE TO DEFINE THE FORM OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE METHOD OF OWNERSHIP."

2. JUNGERS AND ELASS, WHO WERE APPROACHED SEPARATELY FOR THEIR COMMENTS ON TURKI'S STATEMENT, BOTH RESPONDED THAT (A) THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THE TERRORIST ATTACK DURING THE VIENNA OPEC MEETINGS, AND (B) THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE STATEMENT INDICATES A HARDENING OR ANY CHANGE IN THE

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SAG POSITION. ACCORDING TO THE ARAMCO OFFICIALS, A NEGOTIATING

SESSION WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR LONDON IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE
VIENNA OPEC MEETING WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK.
MINISTH YAMANI HAS SHOWN NO INTEREST IN AN EARLY RESCHEDULING OF
THE MEETING, AND NO NEGOTIATING SESSION IS NOW ON THE CALENDAR.
BUSHNELL

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NNN

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